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Rec. No.: EV479703622US  
On : October 29, 2004  
By BPR  
Brendy Lynn Belony

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor :Kazuhito MIYAKI, et al.  
Serial No. :09/993,345  
Filed :November 14, 2001  
Title :METHOD OF BRANCHING ....

October 29, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

SIR:

In order to comply with discretionary regulations 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and a copy of the non US documents (if any) listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

Also attached is a copy of the European Search Report dated September 8, 2004 from the corresponding European Patent Application. All of the documents listed in Form PTO-1449 appear in the European Search Report.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is

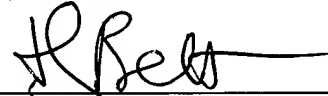
intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

As this statement is being filed within three months of the date of the Search Report, no fee is due.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Bean', is written over a horizontal line.

Thomas J. Bean  
Reg. No. 44,528

Customer Number: 026304  
Docket No: SCEY 19.175

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U.S. Department of Commerce  
Patent and Trademark Office

Application No. : 09/993,345

Filing Date :

First Named Inventor: K. MIYAKI

Group Art Unit :

Examiner Name :

Attorney Docket No. : SCEY 19.175

# **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Sheet 1 of 1

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | U.S. Patent Document | Kind Code if known <sup>2</sup> | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
|                   |                       | 5,848,934            |                                 | SHIELS, et al.                                  | 12-15-1998                                       |   |
|                   |                       | 5,607,356            |                                 | SCHWARTZ  | 03-04-1997                                       |   |
|                   |                       | 5,568,602            |                                 | CALLAHAN et al.                                 | 10-22-1996                                       |   |
|                   |                       |                      |                                 |   |  |   |
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## **FOREIGN DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document Office <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) | Country | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YY/Y | Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---|---------|---|--|---|
|                   |                       | 0 913 174   | EP      | SEGA ENTERPRISES, LTD.                          | 05-06-1999                                       |   |
|                   |                       |   |         |   |  |   |
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## **Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents**

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source. | Applicant check her if English language translation attached |
|-------------------|----------|--|--|
|                   |          | European Search Report dated September 8, 2004   |  |
|                   |          |  |  |

| Examiner Signature | Date Considered |
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Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.  
<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1<sup>6</sup> if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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